

Message Text

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ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
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DRAFTED BY EB/OA/AN:WARILEY:JG
APPROVED BY EB/OA:MHSTYLES
NEA/IAI:JMCBRIDE
CAB:MPETT (INFO)
EB/AN:JBMAGNOR
-----109360 040002Z /20
O 032342Z MAR 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, IS

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: US-ISRAEL NEGOTIATIONS

1. ISRAELI MINISTER HANAN BAR-ON CALLED ON DEPT. OFFICER MICHAEL STYLES, DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF AVIATION, MARCH 3 TO DISCUSS US PROPOSAL THAT NEGOTIATIONS TAKE PLACE THIS YEAR TO CONSIDER LIBERAL CHARTER AGREEMENT, LOW FARES, AND ADDITIONAL LANDING RIGHTS FOR EL AL. BAR-ON MADE CLEAR THAT ISRAEL AGREED WITH GENERAL FRAMEWORK BUT SAID THAT, IN LIGHT OF ADMINISTRATION'S NEW POLICY ENCOURAGING COMPETITION HE FELT THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO PRE-CONDITION FOR NEGOTIATIONS WHICH WOULD LIMIT EL AL TO ONLY ONE ADDITIONAL LANDING POINT IN THE US.

2. STYLES REPLIED THAT USG INTEREST IN ENHANCING COMPETITION WAS NOT NEW BUT HAD RECENTLY RECEIVED INCREASED
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EMPHASIS. DEFINING A LIBERAL CHARTER REGIME, STYLES SAID THE USG WANTED A GENERAL POLICY OF NO RESTRICTION ON THE NUMBER OF AIRLINES THAT MIGHT OPERATE, NO RESTRICTION ON THE NUMBER OF CHARTER FLIGHTS, OPEN GEOGRAPHICAL ACCESS, I.E., FROM ANY POINT IN THE US TO ANY POINT IN ISRAEL AND

CHARTERS OPERATED UNDER RULES OF COUNTRY IN WHICH CHARTER

TRAFFIC ORIGINATES. STYLES NOTED THAT SEVERAL ROUNDS OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH ISRAEL IN THE PAST HAD FAILED TO PRODUCE RESULTS AND THAT TO BETTER INSURE RESULTS THIS TIME IT WAS HOPED THAT AN AGREED BASIS COULD BE ESTABLISHED BEFORE TALKING. HE SAID THAT THE USG POSITION OUTLINED TO THE ISRAELI EMBASSY IN DECEMBER WAS APPROVED AT SENIOR LEVELS AND THAT HE WAS NOT AT LIBERTY TO REVISE THE POSITION THAT THE USG WOULD GRANT EL AL ONE ADDITIONAL SCHEDULED ROUTE IN EXCHANGE FOR CHARTER LIBERALIZATION AND LOW AIR FARES. STYLES SAID THE MATTER WOULD BE REFERRED TO SENIOR OFFICIALS TO DETERMINE WHETHER NEGOTIATIONS SHOULD NEVERTHELESS PROCEED.

3. IT WAS AGREED THAT THE DEPT. WOULD INFORM THE ISRAELI EMBASSY WHETHER, FROM THE USG'S POINT OF VIEW, IT APPEARED FRUITFUL TO HAVE FORMED NEGOTIATIONS AT THIS TIME; AND, IF SO, TO PROPOSE DATES CONVENIENT FOR THE USG. (THE ISRAELIS SUGGESTED THE WEEK OF APRIL 10 WHICH APPEARS DIFFICULT FOR US).

5. COMMENT: ISRAELIS CLEARLY HAVE IN MIND SEVERAL ADDITIONAL LANDING POINTS. TRADE PRESS HAS PICKED UP STORY FROM ISRAELI SOURCE THAT GOI WANTS "...AT LEAST FOUR ADDITIONAL POINTS FOR MEANINGFUL LIBERALIZATION OF CHARTERS." CAN EMBASSY CONFIRM THIS IS GOI POSITION?

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CHRISTOPHER

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